

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:20 pm on Tuesday, November 5, 2013 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Mike Kelly, Frank Esposito, Don Travisano, Steve Carroll, Marilyn Murray, Dot Stillinger, Shankar Krishnan, Township Committee Liaison Kathy Abbott.

CTEC'S PURPOSE: To undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources and air quality, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2013 and January 2014 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and on the Chatham Township website at www.chathamtownship.org. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

DECIDE ON CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETING DATES FOR 2014 AND JANUARY 2015

Every first Tuesday February through December 2014 and the second Tuesday in January 2015.

February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July NO MEETING, August 5, September 2, October 7, November 4, December 2 in 2014 and January 13 in 2015.

ROLL CALL

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY BRONZE CERTIFICATION AWARDED TO CHATHAM TOWNSHIP
CONGRATULATIONS TO STEVE CARROLL!!!!

APPROVE GREEN TEAM AND CTEC MINUTES OF OCTOBER 1, 2013

WELCOME DON TRAVISANO AS CTEC'S NEWEST MEMBER

Don will be CTEC's liaison to the Planning Board. Don served on the Commission awhile back so knows the drill.

GREEN TEAM MEETING

S. Carroll, Green Team Chair and CTEC Vice Chair.

Work ahead on sustainable Jersey points for 2016. PSEG Sustainable Jersey Small Grants Program will be continued for 2014.

Green Team agreed that it will work towards Bronze certification for next round. For higher certification would need paid staff and help from Township departments to compile required information and accomplish action items.

Steve will urge

- municipal Green Purchasing action.
- Tree protection ordinance could be reviewed and the review process documented for SJ.
- Thermal energy project - might use a \$20,000 PSEG grant to retrofit the Little Red Schoolhouse as a demonstration project
- Sustainable Land Use action - just need a resolution renewing previous resolution and sending it to all departments.
- Need to get NRI adopted into the Master Plan.
- Complete Streets - enough has been done to qualify for the action.
- Green Checklist is almost completed. Warren has completed a Green Checklist very similar to the one CT is finishing and is handing it out to developers. Don has touched bases with all the people who previously worked on it, PB doesn't want to make it a mandatory part of the application process.
- Other actions can be renewed. Anti Idling is pretty much accomplished.

GT adjourned at 7:58 PM.

RAIN GARDEN GRANT FROM THE NATURE CONSERVANCY AWARDED

CTEC was awarded the civic category First Prize in the Show Us Your H2O contest. The TNC panel of judges was impressed with the amount of detail covered, the attention given to questions posed in the contest requirements, and that CTEC had a great place selected in need of a rain garden, upper area by playground. The Nature Conservancy is working with CTEC on implementation.

RECYCLING ECO CHALLENGE

Very successful. Final numbers are being compiled by Jennifer Matthews and Megan Schaaf.

ANJEC ANNUAL MEETING ON OCTOBER 19

Mike and Kathy discussed the Sapling Sale at a workshop on successful EC projects. The Sapling Sale won the Daily Record's What a Great Idea! award in its third annual Grassroots Awards and the ANJEC Environmental Achievement Award.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

NEW. 446 Green Village Rd., Block 144, Lot 50. Application to NJDEP dated 9-30-13 by R. Gunn for a General Permit #8 for disturbance of up to 750 sf for clearing of vegetation, placement of pavement and expansion of building. DEP approved 9-30-13, apparently without public comment.

NEW. 446 Green Village Rd., Block 144, Lot 50. Application to NJDEP dated 8-5-13 by R. Gunn for Floodway and Flood Hazard Area verifications. Approved attached letter to NJDEP.

PENDING. Bhee properties, Block 61, Lot 10, 697 Fairmount Ave. Application to Planning Board to subdivide an acre property into two 1/2-acre lots in the R-3 (1/2-acre) zone. Fifty-foot drop from Sunset Drive to Fairmount Ave. Proposed usable lot area is only half of that required on each lot. Variances requested for very large deviations from required slope disturbances. Soil is loose and depth to bedrock is small so much potential for erosion and stormwater runoff. Application has not come back to Planning Board.

PENDING. 23 Loantaka Lane South, Block 139, lot 17. Application by Home Help New Jersey, LLC to NJDEP for renewal of wetland disturbance permit. CTEC sent letters to NJDEP and others noting that the proposed required wetland compensation area is not on property owned by the applicant but is on land owned by the Morris County Park Commission. NJDEP has sent applicant a Letter of Deficiency requiring among other things a conservation easement on all the property outside of the transition area (which is the entire remainder of the property) specifying no vegetation disturbance including mowing and gardening.

PENDING. 509 Shunpike Rd. Block 128, lot 14. Application to Planning Board to subdivide the 1-acre property into 2 1/2-acre lots. R-3 (1/2 acre residential) zone. Property is near Long Hill Chapel. Wetlands begin at rear property line. When the application comes up before the Planning Board CTEC will send memo to Planning Board suggesting asking applicant to obtain an LOI.

PENDING. Rolling Knolls Superfund site at the end of Britten Road. No new information. It was specifically excluded from the market garden ordinance. Suggest CTEC investigate what would be needed to incorporate it into the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. (Addition Wednesday, Nov. 6. At the Wednesday SEAMLESS meeting Bill Koch, Refuge manager, said that there was no possibility of the Refuge acquiring Rolling Knolls because of having to take responsibility for upkeep and assume the liability.)

REPORTS

Planning Board report

- PB subcommittee is considering updating the Circulation Plan.
- Considering making the block of Shunpike at Hickory Tree into a street with pedestrian access.
- There is more foot traffic to Hickory Tree from Shunpike Field since the sidewalk went in last spring.

Township Committee Report

- Complete Streets - update. K. Abbott.
- John Ruschke, Township Engineer, is taking advantage of the current repaving work to make Fairmount Avenue lanes narrower so there will be a shoulder for bikes.

Open Space Committee report

- No Open Space Committee meeting last month.
- Joint Chatham Township/Borough Community Garden Committee is considering a site at Woodland Park. The plots will hopefully be allocated evenly between the Township and Borough.

Communications, Recycling, Education and Outreach Committees report

- Recycling Eco-Challenge was successful, good coverage in the press.

- CTEC web site has been incorporated in essentially unchanged form into the new Chatham Township website. A few problems with making all the CTEC information accessible on new site.
- Frank would like comments from CTEC members on format and content for CTEC website.
- Would be good to have another electronics recycling event.
- Recycling bags are being distributed at the condos.
- Discussion on increasing frequency of recycle pickup.

Legal Issues Committee meeting on October 28, 2013

- Attending: George Crimmins, Steve Carroll, Dot Stillinger.
- Sunset Lake discussion. Need to wait for information from Princeton Hydro and Madison engineers.
- Loantaka Lane South. No information on applicant's response to DEP Letter of Deficiency.
- GIS update. George will look into any GIS updating that may have occurred at DPW, police.
- Old Bridge conservation easement tracking. Old Bridge ordinance requires property purchasers to be notified by the township in writing of any conservation easement. Can Chatham Township pass a similar ordinance? The Old Bridge zoning officer keeps track of the conservation easements and is responsible for monitoring.

NOTES AND DISCUSSION

- Possible projects for grants.
- Waiting for the report card from Joe Dunn of the Morris County Soil Conservation District (www.mcsd.org/) on how Chatham Township is doing on its soil and sediment erosion control. Chatham Township, by means of its lot grading plan requirement, may be the only Morris County town that assumes the responsibility for soil and erosion instead of leaving it to the county.
- Greeve conservation easement needs to be accepted and recorded. Planning Board final subdivision approval was granted 3-21-96 conditioned on a conservation easement be granted to the Township.
- Safe Routes to School - update. Report submitted to Township Committee, application will be made for grants and Gold status with the SRTS organization. "This (Chatham school district) was the only school district in which every school participated in SRTS programs throughout the school year." K. Abbott.
- Note alternatives being proposed for Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The word on the street is that Option B is most favored. Read the Plan at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/Great%20Swamp/ccphome.html>.

PRESENTATIONS

CTEC members watched two presentation given by K. Abbott:

- Chatham Township Water. Where Chatham Township's drinking water comes from and how to keep it clean and abundant.
- Sapling Sale presentation. It was so well received at the ANJEC annual conference that Mike and Kathy have been asked to give it again in another town.

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- October 2013. Report sent by e-mail to Sunset Lake Association about observations during CTEC property walk with questions and suggestions.
- April 2013. Letters concerning application to NJDEP for extension of Transition Area Waiver and General Permit by Home Help New Jersey, LLC sent to NJDEP, Morris County Planning Board, Morris County Park Commission.
- March 2013. Letter to three new owners of properties with conservation easements mentioning the existence of a conservation easement on part of their property.
- January 2013. Letter to NJDEP urging good vegetation management in power line rights-of-way, including the North Central Reliability Project, and revegetation with native species.

EVENTS

MAIL RECEIVED

- Minutes of meetings of Long Hill and Chatham Borough Environmental Commissions.
- Notices and flyers.

ADJOURN